GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:288
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
SUB POST OFFICES IN VILLAGES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages where sub-post offices are functioning in the country, as on date ;

(b) the number of villages where sub-post offices have been opened during the Tenth Five Year Plan ;

(c) the criteria for opening the post offices in the country ;

(d) whether the criteria for opening post offices in rural and urban areas are different ;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 288 FOR 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2007 REGARDING SUB-POST OFFICES IN VILLAGES.

(a) The number of villages where Sub Post Offices are functioning in the country is 12,727.

(b) The number of villages where Sub-Post Offices have been opened during the Tenth Five Year plan is 35.

(c) The criteria for opening the post offices in the country is given in the Annexure.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The reasons for having different criteria for opening post offices in rural and urban areas is to provide reasonable access to postal services for rural areas which would not be possible if norms for urban areas were to be applied.

(f) The norms have been fixed by the Government.

ANNEXURE

NORMS FOR OPENING GRAMIN DAK SEWAK BRANCH POST OFFICES (RURAL AREAS)

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages [including the Proposed Post Office (PPO) village]

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

Norms for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

2 (a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs.2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs.4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2 (b) In Urban Areas:

In urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.